

[Copy.]

Leicester. Aug. 31. '59.

Friend Howland, Yrs. of 30th came to me today from Boston. I have sent your acc^t to Mr. Jackson, requesting him to send to you a check, to y^r order, for the balance due you, viz^t \$78.72.

I am sorry for the state of mind which your note to me indicated; and I beg to say, (as one who is conscious of no unfriendly & no unworthy feeling towards you - but quite the contrary) that I trust, for your own sake, you will take no hasty step in communicating your feelings to the Committee; but confer first, with the best friends you have, in whose good sense and judgment you most rely.

Meanwhile, may I offer a few comments on your note?

1. You speak of the Committee's action in your case as "unprecedented". If you mean that the Committee have never terminated agencies before, in a manner similar to your case, you are quite mistaken. They have been compelled to close many, in my

experience, and some of them much more suddenly than yours. For,

2. you have virtually had 3 months' notice. You cannot have forgotten writing to me to know the meaning of the limitation of your Agency to the 1st September. In my reply, I said this (or to this effect) that unless the Treasurer were in better funds, at that time, than there then appeared to be prospect of, there would, I thought, be a necessity that your agency should find support elsewhere, — as I supposed, no doubt, it might and would, — tho' I had no authority to speak as to that. So the termination of your agency, is by no means, as you say, "Summary".

3. You intimate that an agent can be discontinued only for "incapacity, inefficiency, or misdeemeanor." Our cause has, fortunately, not had such experiences — or, but very seldom. But if an Agent, as in Danl. Foster's case, insists on doing, while an Agent (as an Agent, or otherwise) what the Comtee deem detrimental to the Cause, or, as in J. S. Foster's case, insists on urging a measure contrary to the Society's principles, & to

the Comtee's belief of the true welfare of the cause, or, as in your case, entertains, & openly publishes, opinions and statements which virtually charge the officers of the Society with the grossest unfairness, & necessarily imply a loss of confidence & respect towards them, and, especially, manifests a determined purpose to force upon particular speeches a construction & meaning, which a liberal & just consideration of other speeches, & articles, for years past, of the same person, plainly shows to be wholly unwarranted, and in fact a complete misrepresentation of his belief, and of his position. — (Such misrepresentation not being by us attributed to any evil intent) — then, I hold, the Comtee can do nothing else than dissolve the connexion. —

The Comtee decided, as I wrote you unanimously, that you could not, in their judgment, in your present state of mind, usefully continue to represent the Am. A. S. Society, as an agent. This is no very grave offence, I think; and certainly involves no dishonor to you whatever. — I hope therefore you will, at least, endeavour to see this matter in a broad light, before you address the Committee. —

4. You continue the distinction of what you do, as an

agent, & what you do not as an agent. No one of the
Comtee could see force in that. It is known that, while
acting as our agent, you bring a virtual charge of
most one-sided and unjust behavior against the
Comtee or other officers of the Society. We have tried hard
but in vain, to get from you your intent, purpose,
meaning, in making that virtual charge, and the
facts it rests upon. Perhaps you still intend to revise
it, but you have put us off a great while, still insisting
on the charge.

You seek to know "what members of the Comtee
were present, & who voted for this extraordinary motion,
— as well as who suggested or moved it, and who
seconded it." I think this request an extraordinary
one, I must say, and one which we are not
bound to reply to. — I am quite sure I mentioned
to you that, in a very full meeting, the vote was
unanimous. I have no doubt every member
of the Comtee, however, would say, — Give the list
of those present. I therefore do so, from memory,
W. L. Garrison, F. Jackson, E. Quincy, M. W. Chapman,
E. L. Follen, W. Phillips, C. K. Whipple, and S. May Jr.
besides 4 others, members of the Mass^t Board of
Managers, (present by courtesy, but not voting.)

The other questions I cannot recognize your
right to put to me; but I think the Comtee are
alike, as to responsibility for the vote. —

Yrs. truly.

(Signed) Saml. May Jr.